

Application No.: 10/691182
Docket No.: FL0210USCIP

Page 3

REMARKS

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102:

Claim 20 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,700,889 (Blair). Applicant disagrees.

Claim 20 of the present invention discloses the *process for applying* TFE/HFP to a conductor. In contrast, Blair discloses the *process of copolymerizing* TFE with HFP.

Additionally, Blair does not disclose fluorination of any polymer in an extruder. The fluorinated vinyl ether disclosed in Blair does not refer to exposure of the polymer to fluorine but rather indicates that the vinyl ether is partially or completely fluorinated. That is, the vinyl ether contains some fluorine atoms in addition to other monovalent atoms or, all the monovalent atoms are fluorine atoms. (See col. 3, lines 5-18 of Blair.) In contrast to Blair, claim 20 of the present invention discloses fluorinating TFE/HFP copolymer *in the extruder*.

For the above reasons, the prima facie case of anticipation has not been met by Blair for claim 20. Thus, reconsideration and allowance of claim 20 is respectfully requested.

Objected Claims:

Claim 21 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 21 has been so amended and thus, is now believed to be in allowable condition.

A petition under 37 CFR § 1.136 for a one-month extension of time to respond to the Examiner's action is enclosed, the fee should be charged to Deposit Account No. 04-1928 (E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company.) If, any additional fee is due in order to obtain consideration of this response, please charge that fee to the above identified account.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: May 16, 2006

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